

OTHER FISHERY NOTES

1946 Alaska Regulations

Containing changes of importance to both fishermen and packers, the new regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska in 1946 were issued on March 23, by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

These regulations, recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service, are based upon testimony presented at public hearings held in Seattle during the past year and upon investigations of fishery biologists and law enforcement officers on duty in Alaska.

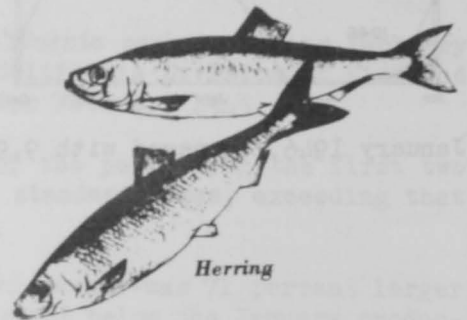
More herring will be available again this year for processing into much-needed oil and meal as the result of the increase in herring catch quotas which feature the 1946 regulations. In the Kodiak and Southeastern Alaska areas, herring are sufficiently abundant now, because of a series of successful spawning years, to permit the taking of an additional 150,000 barrels during the 1946 season, raising the total take in these two areas to 700,000 barrels.

In the Kodiak area, the quota has been increased from 300,000 to 400,000 barrels and in the Southeastern Alaska area, from 250,000 to 300,000 barrels.

Persons engaged in the salmon industry will be interested in a number of changes in seasons which have been made in the Southeastern Alaska area in order to more nearly synchronize open seasons with the pink salmon runs in the various districts.

In the Icy Strait, Eastern and Western districts, the opening dates for commercial fishing will be from 5 to 10 days later than last year. In most districts, the 36-hour weekly closed period has been extended to 60 hours during all but the last two weeks of the season, and several days additional fishing time have been added to the end of the season. If additional fishing time is warranted following the end of the principal fishing season, provision has been made for a series of 51-hour open periods, alternating with short closed periods.

Other changes in Southeastern Alaska reduce the closed season on salmon trolling by 10 days, and shift the opening date for fall fishing from October 20 to October 15. A proposed postponement to May 1 of the opening date for taking sablefish was suspended for the current season, when it developed that such postponement would cause unexpected hardship to local fishermen.



Because the Service anticipates a red salmon run of less than normal volume in the Bristol Bay area this year and an increase in fishing operations, the mid-weekly closed period has been extended from 24 to 36 hours to apply in all sec-

tions of the area. The Egegik District has been reopened to commercial fishing after a one-year closure.

To provide additional protection for both the red salmon and pink salmon runs in the Alaska Peninsula area, the 36-hour weekly closed period has been increased to 60 hours. On the south side of the Peninsula the regular season will terminate August 10, two days earlier than last year. On the north side of the Peninsula a catch limit of 500,000 red salmon is provided for the Port Moller section, and the open season is increased by 15 days to permit the greater utilization of other species of salmon.

In the Kodiak area the salmon fishing season will end one day earlier than last year, and the fall season will open on September 10 instead of September 1.

In the Prince William Sound area the salmon fishing season will terminate this year at 6 a.m. on August 7, an extension of 36 hours over 1945. The usual even-year opening date of July 10 will be in effect.

Salmon traps must be made inoperative within 24 hours after the close of the season, instead of within 12 hours, as formerly.

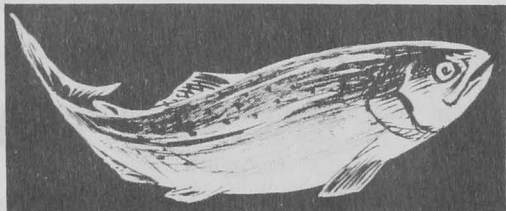
War time has been replaced by standard time as a basis for the enforcement of the Alaska commercial fishery laws and regulations.



Amendment to Alaska Regulations

No action will be taken at this time either to impose an upper limit on salmon trap site holdings in Alaska or to establish a general system of preferences with respect to occupancy of trap sites, the U. S. Department of the Interior announced on March 6, in issuing the notice of amendments to the 1946 Alaska Fishing Regulations.

Since preparations for the Alaska salmon season, which will begin in some districts in May, are already under way and a heavy pre-season investment already has been made by last season's occupants of trap sites, it appears unlikely, if sites were to be thrown open to competition by imposition of a twenty-trap limitation, that they could be supplied with traps and effectively occupied by newcomers in 1946. The uncertainty as to which sites would be or should be subjected to competition and the practical difficulties of time and cost would inevitably result in a curtailment of this year's output of canned salmon, and this result the Department is not willing to create or permit in view of the international food shortage.



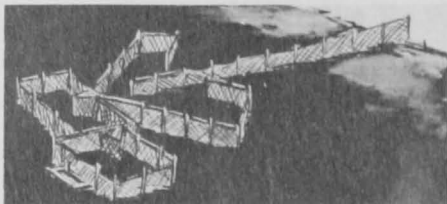
The new Alaska fishing regulations will, however, prohibit occupants of ten or more sites from acquiring additional sites. This, according to the Department, would effect no discernible change in the volume of 1946 production.

Hearings on the proposed changes in the Alaska fishing regulations were held in Washington from February 21 to February 25. Because of the distance and expense

involved in bringing interested parties to Washington to testify, the hearings will be resumed in Alaska, with reference to the 1947 regulations, following the close of the 1946 fishing season.

The hearings will be held in Kodiak, Seldovia, Cordova, Juneau, Sitka, Klawak, Wrangell, and Ketchikan in the fall.

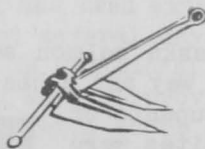
It developed in the course of the hearing, that a comparatively small number of those who hold War Department permits for trap sites did not themselves operate the traps, but simply leased, for a substantial rental, the right to use the site. In the opinion of the Department, there can be no defense of a system under which a private individual is able to lease for a profit a part of the public domain, and the practice should be stopped as soon as possible.



The beneficiaries of this system, however indefensible it may appear, are entitled to be heard before the system is changed. It accordingly seems best to defer action until the 1947 season, and merely to serve notice at this time that the permit holder who leases, rather than operates, his trap site in 1946 is not likely to be allowed to occupy the site in 1947.

Although the Department's salmon conservation program in Alaska has succeeded in reducing the number of trap sites to 440, from 799 in 1924, 221 of those sites are now occupied by eight companies, and for several years, no trap sites have been available to newcomers in the field. This is a condition the Department, as the guardian of the public resources, is anxious to see corrected.

Administrative regulation or statutory action in this field is not confined to the Federal Government. The White Act expressly disclaims any intention to deny to the Legislature of Alaska the power to regulate the fishing industry by licensing or taxation. The Territorial Legislature meets in special session within a few days. In accordance with the Department's policy of favoring increased legislative responsibility in the territorial areas, it is appropriate and desirable that an opportunity be given to the Alaskan Legislature to enact suitable legislation to deal with this problem. Appropriate and effective action by the Legislature may obviate the necessity for further changes in the 1947 regulations.



Halibut Allocation

Hearings on a proposed allocation program for Pacific Coast halibut during the 1946 season will be held in Seattle on April 10, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced on March 27.

Members of the industry and interested Government agencies will be given an opportunity at the hearings to present their views as to the necessity for allocation of the halibut catch and as to the character of the program if adopted.

Allocation of halibut by the Interior Department was first undertaken in 1944 and was continued in 1945. The Department has been requested by the Office

of Price Administration to adopt a similar program this season in the interest of proper price control and of avoiding disturbance of normal channels of distribution.

The halibut fishery presents an unusual problem, because the size of the catch is rigidly limited under the terms of an international treaty with Canada. Under this treaty a catch of 52,500,000 pounds is authorized for 1946.



Alaska Resource Committee

A special committee to formulate recommendations to develop Alaskan resources has been appointed by President Truman. It consists of the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce.



International Salmon Fisheries Commission

On March 19, the White House announced that the President had designated Mr. Milo Moore, Director of the Department of Fisheries of the State of Washington, a member on the part of the United States of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Charles E. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson, formerly Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, was recently appointed General Manager of the National Fisheries Institute. In accepting Mr. Jackson's resignation, President Truman expressed his appreciation for the services rendered by Mr. Jackson as one of this Government's members of the Commission.

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission was established pursuant to Article II of the Convention between the United States and Canada, signed May 26, 1930, for the regulation, preservation and extension of the sockeye salmon fisheries of the Fraser River System.

The primary duty of the Commission is to investigate the natural history of the salmon fisheries and to make recommendations to the two Governments as to the best measures for the regulation of the fisheries with a view to conservation and restoration.



Fish Production Goals

On March 6, the Department of Agriculture announced its fish production goals for 1946. These are:

Canned fish and shellfish	- 811,000,000 pounds
Cured fish	- 100,000,000 "
Fresh and frozen fish and shellfish	- 1,701,000,000 "
Fish meal	- 265,000 tons
Fish liver oil (not including imported oils or vitamin A made therefrom)	- 70 trillion units of vitamin A

The goals are substantially the same as those established last year, with the exception of cured fish. Because of the demand and the removal of wartime regulations, the goal for cured fish has been set at 10,000,000 pounds above that for 1945. The general food situation would have justified higher goals, but it was necessary to keep the goals within the limits of quantities likely to be produced.

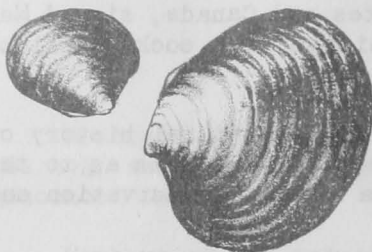
The goal of 265,000 tons for fish meal falls considerably short of fish meal needs for livestock and poultry feeding. However, the world food situation has made it necessary to give preference to foods for direct human consumption rather than for use as animal feed, fertilizer, or related uses.



Clam Farming

The yield of the United States clam fisheries could be nearly doubled in volume, with a corresponding increase in value, if scientific methods of cultivation were applied to this valuable resource, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced on March 21.

Although current production of clams is slightly more than 30 million pounds annually, most of this quantity is taken from uncultivated grounds and represents the harvesting of a wild crop. The application of modern methods of shellfish cultivation by State or local governments or by private individuals, where feasible, would greatly increase the yield and value of this resource.



The Atlantic Coast clam fisheries, which furnish about 95 percent of the total United States production, depend largely on two species, the soft-shelled clam and the hard clam or quahog. Both species grow in inter-tidal or shallow water and are thus easily cultivated.

Cultivation of soft clams may be successfully undertaken in almost any protected area north of New Jersey. Many beds, which at present are almost barren or entirely devoid of these animals, could be converted with comparatively little effort into clam-growing farms. Utilization of such areas would result in an increased supply of clams for the market, and in the conversion of thousands of acres of unproductive bottoms to a source of revenue. The cultivation of hard

shell clams--which are found from Maine to Florida--may also be rendered a very profitable and dependable business, provided some fundamental rules are observed in selecting the ground for the farm and taking care of it.

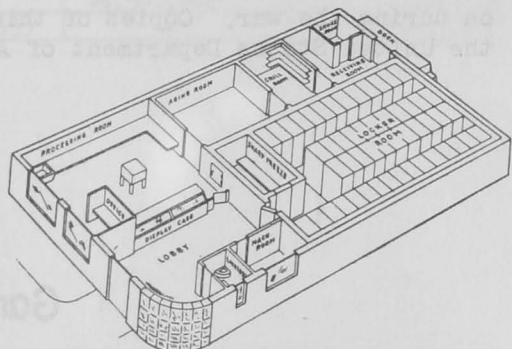
Where clambeds are available for private leasing, returning war veterans would find a profitable outdoor occupation in clam farming, according to Dr. Loosanoff, Service Biologist. The clam farm requires less care than the agricultural farm and offers more profit. Hard clam farms, under cultivation, can yield as much as 600 bushels of 2½-inch clams per acre annually, it is estimated. At current prices, this represents an income of \$1,800 to \$2,400 per acre of cultivated bottom.

In addition to the hard and soft clam fisheries, two new clam industries were developed during the war on the Atlantic Coast--a fishery for the surf clam in the Long Island area and one for the ocean quahog in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Since both species inhabit deep water, it is believed that cultivation of these clams would be difficult, if not impossible.



Frozen Foods and Lockers

A list of sources of basic information on frozen foods and lockers has been compiled by the United States Department of Commerce. This 15-page leaflet, entitled Frozen Foods and Lockers, enumerates the government publications, recent articles in trade papers and magazines, and other sources which contain information and statistics on these subjects. The publication is available, free of charge, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.



Vitamin Oils

The Department of Commerce has issued a 6-page report on United States trade in vitamin oils as a part of its Industrial Reference Service. This leaflet discusses production, extraction, refining, consumption, costs, prices, wartime regulations, organization of the industry, foreign trade, and market possibilities. Copies of Part 2 to the November 1945 Industrial Reference Service, "The Vitamin Oil Trade--United States," can be obtained for 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Exporters

For the convenience of exporters, the Department of Commerce's Office of International Trade Requirements and Supply Branch has issued a revised Positive List of Commodities. This list includes all commodities which require export licenses for shipment to Group K destinations. Included in this list are a number of salted, dried, and canned fishery products, as well as fish and whale oils and fish meal. The Current Export Bulletin No. 319 may be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.



Packages and Containers

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture recently has completed a 64-page mimeographed booklet entitled Packages and Containers for Marketing Foods. This publication discusses the effects of the war on packaging and packaging materials and predicts the changes in materials and uses which will develop as an outgrowth of new discoveries and practices brought on during the war. Copies of this publication are available, free of charge, from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.



Game Fish Licenses

A recent summary issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service shows that 8,280,000 fresh-water anglers in the 48 States paid \$10,580,000 into the State treasuries during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1945. This was an increase of 450,000 licenses over the previous fiscal year.



Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

January 1946 purchases of fishery products by the United States Department of Agriculture displayed a gain of \$2,718,278 in value over December 1945. Compared with the 1944 total, purchases for the year ending December 31, 1945, declined \$26,319,200 in value.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	January 1946		January-December 1945	
		Quantity	F.O.B. Cost Dollars	Quantity	F.O.B. Cost Dollars
FISH AND SHELLFISH					
Herring, canned	Cases	-	-	81,660	434,189
Mackerel, "	"	4,212	20,534	276,490	1,458,249
Pilchards, "	"	76,570	282,567	1,763,844	6,879,892
Salmon, "	"	261,565	2,901,323	1,910,582	19,085,396
Sardines, "	"	7,175	33,929	1,454,967	5,866,313
Shrimp, "	"	-	-	307,500	1,491,375
Tuna and tuna-like fish, "	"	-	-	53,828	569,932
Fish, flaked, "	"	-	-	20,267	205,986
Fish, ground, "	"	-	-	125,887	365,506
Total	"	349,522	3,238,353	5,995,025	36,356,838
Fish, brine-cured	Pounds	-	-	40,000	8,000
" , dry-salted	"	-	-	20,309,570	3,259,100
" , smoked	"	-	-	1,531,600	162,123
Total	"	-	-	21,881,170	3,429,223
BYPRODUCTS					
Feeding oil	"	-	-	41,000	15,990
Fish meal	"	-	-	2,880,000	115,125
Oyster shell	"	-	-	160,000	640
Oyster shell flour	"	-	-	320,000	1,120
Oyster shell grits	"	-	-	440,000	1,604
Total	"	-	-	3,841,000	134,479
VITAMINS					
Vitamin A fish-liver oil M Units		-	-	14,502,262	3,902,447
Grand Total		-	3,238,353	-	43,822,987



HAUL SEINES

Haul seines are operated from shore to take fish that are concentrated close to the beaches. The seine is dropped in a wide circle offshore and is then hauled toward the beach, encircling the fish. Hauling is done by hand (small seines) or by power (large seines). Some of the largest haul seines are operated in the lower Chesapeake, and the sounds of North Carolina, taking spot and croakers. Weakfish (sea trout) are taken in night seining in the Peconic Bays of Long Island in summer.

